

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please AMEND the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

-- This application is based on and hereby claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/JP2004/007088 filed on May 25, 2004 and Japanese Application No. 2003-278815 filed on July 24, 2003, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. --

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE the Title of the application, with the following Title:

-- OPTIMUM SHAPE ~~DESIGN~~ DESIGN METHOD AND DESIGN SYSTEM --